



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : MOHAMMAD A. HEIDARAN Art Unit : 1615
 AND ROBIN DAVERMAN Examiner : L. Di Nola Baron
Serial No. : 09/805,816 PTO Customer No.: 26181
Filed : March 13, 2001
Title : METHOD OF INDUCING OR ENHANCING CHONDROGENESIS WITH
 EXTRACELLULAR MATRIX CONTAINING BMP-4

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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RESPONSE

Sir,

This is in response to the office action mailed July 3, 2002.

A request for a three-month extension of time with the requisite fee accompanies this response. With the extension, the response is due January 3, 2003.

Please amend the claims to read as follows:

In the claims:

- A*
1. (Amended): A method for inducing or enhancing chondrogenesis in cells comprising the step of exposing said cells to a matrix composition comprising type I collagen and an effective amount of BMP-4 sufficient to induce or enhance chondrogenesis.
 2. (Amended): A method for inducing or enhancing chondrogenesis in cells comprising the step of exposing said cells to a matrix composition comprising type II collagen and an effective amount of BMP-4 sufficient to induce or enhance chondrogenesis.
 3. (Amended): A method for inducing or enhancing chondrogenesis in cells comprising the step of exposing said cells to a matrix composition comprising type I collagen, hyaluronate and an effective amount of BMP-4 sufficient to induce or enhance chondrogenesis.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY FIRST CLASS MAIL

I hereby certify under 37 CFR §1.8(a) that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage on the date indicated below and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

January 3, 2003

Date of Deposit

Signature

[Signature: Kimberly Heldt]

Kimberly Heldt

Typed or Printed Name of Person Signing Certificate

01/10/2003 MBLAND 00000017 09805816

02 FC:2202 36.00 OP
03 FC:2201 168.00 OP
04 FC:2203 140.00 OP